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October 31, 1978

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Memo for file on Dr. Sylvia Frank visit

Sylvia has spent quite a number of years in Kenya teaching there I think roughly between 1965 and 1975. Now she is doing free lance writing for the most part, works for a consulting outfit in Washington called Kappa Associates and has done a number of the ad hoc documents that come along on short notice from Califano's office or within HEW like the Surgeon General's report on Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases and something similar in the lung section. She would be very happily available for tasks of this kind that might arise from The Rockefeller University and she would be particularly interested in what I mentioned of Ken Warren's activities.

We reminisced a bit about the original discovery of DNA and how it was perceived at Columbia. She corroborated in every detail the picture that I had myself recalled. She particularly recalled that Rollin Hotchkiss had visited Columbia to give a seminar on the Avery work and thought that it might have been as early as 1942 although I think 1943 is more likely. This may have been what turned Harriet Taylor onto an interest in that particular field. She was astonished that there seemed to be no way to document the dates of such encounters and quite astonishingly mentioned that she had just heard from her son yesterday that there was a box of old papers and letters in their former house that conceivably might still contain some materials of that

vintage. She will look into that and let me know.

She advocated Salome Waelsch in particular but also as a possibility Barry Commoner as potential sources in that direction.